

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 1-11 and added new claims 12-18. Accordingly, only claims 12-18 remain in the application, of which none has been allowed.

Applicant has amended the title in accordance with the Examiner's requirement that a new title is required that is clearly indicative of the claimed invention. Applicant believes that the new title is indicative of the claimed invention. However, if the Examiner finds that the new title is not so indicative, then applicant requests that the Examiner suggest a new title.

Applicant notes the Examiner's requirement for a drawing to show some features named in the original claims. Enclosed is a copy of Fig. 3 with a requested change shown in red ink.

The previous claims were rejected on Hultermans (5,764,834) or Kiani (6,769,814). The present claims are largely directed to the same features as the previous claims, although applicant believes the new claims have greater clarity, and the following discussion compares the claimed invention to these two references.

New claim 12 describes a connection system such as shown in applicant's Fig. 3, where first and second connectors each have one of a pair of mateable optic fiber terminus assemblies (26, 60), and a first terminus has a terminus spring (74) that biases its terminus towards the other one. The first housing has a first frame (30) and a first body (34) slidable in frame. The system includes a first body spring (112) and means (rod assembly 100 and backup 50) connected to the body spring for urging the body forward with respect to the first frame (30). The means for urging has a pair of front surfaces (shown at 102, 103 in Fig. 1) that lie on opposite sides of the passage and that are exposed to be pressed rearwardly. The second housing has a pair of standoffs (130, 131 in Fig. 1) positioned to engage the front surfaces to stop further forward movement of the body. By using precisely formed standoffs to engage the defined surfaces, applicant precisely

stops forward movement of the body at defined locations on the opposite side of the passages to avoid tilt of the body. Hultermans' Fig. 6 shows mating terminus assemblies and a spring 112 that biases one of them forwardly. His body 104 that holds his terminus assembly does not slide with respect to a frame. In addition, Hultermans does not show a pair of standoffs that engage specific front surface locations that lie on opposite sides of the terminus-holding passage to avoid tilting a slidable body.

Kiani's Fig. 6a shows a pair of ferrules, or connectors 64, 44 that hold terminus assemblies and that mate to connect the terminus assemblies. However, it appears that his connectors 64, 44 are stopped from movement towards each other by random locations on the front surfaces of his connectors. He does not show specific front surface locations on opposite sides of his terminus assemblies to engage standoffs so as to minimize tilt of his body with respect to the frame in which it slides. Applicant notes that Kiani shows alignment pins 31, 71 but they do not stop forward movement of the two connectors toward each other. Accordingly, applicant believes that new claim 12 should be allowed.

New claim 13, which depends from claim 12, describes the means for urging as including a backup (50 in applicant's Fig. 3) with a surface that abuts the connector body (34), and a pair of rod devices (100) that each is slidably mounted in the frame and that each has a forwardly-facing surface (111) that abuts the backup, with the springs biasing the rod devices forwardly. Neither references show this. In Kiani's Fig. 6a, he shows springs, but does not show a pair of slidable rods that have front surfaces that engage the standoffs.

New claim 14, which depends from claim 13, is similar to now-canceled claim 3. New claim 14 describes details of the rod devices and the engagement of the springs with the rods and frame. Since neither reference shows such rods, neither shows the details of claim 14.

New claim 15, which depends from claim 13 and is similar to now-canceled claim 4, describes the fact that when the standoffs first abut the rod front ends, the

connectors are close enough that the terminus tips are engaged with each other. Only Hultermans shows the tips of his terminus assemblies, but he does not show standoffs that abut only when the tips have abutted and one of them has slid rearward.

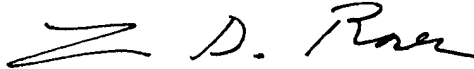
New claim 16, which depends from claim 13, is similar to now-canceled claim 5. New claim 16 describes the rod devices located at opposite corners, and describes the body springs also located at the opposite corners. Neither of the references show a pair of rod devices forming specific front surface locations to be pressed rearward.

New claim 17, which is somewhat similar to now-canceled claim 8, describes the total force applied by the body springs (e.g. 112 in applicant's Fig. 3) that urge the body forward, as being greater than the combined force of all terminus springs that urge the corresponding terminus assemblies forward. This assures that all termini are fully mated before the body (34) can move rearward with respect to the frame, or in another words that the frame can continue to move forward with respect to the body. Kiani, which shows springs, does not describe the relative forces applied by his body springs with respect to the total forces applied by all terminus springs.

New claim 18, describes the system shown in applicant's Fig. 3. That is, claim 18 describes the backup (50) at least two bores (104) and at least two holes (106) in the frame and backup, at least two rod devices (100) that have rear ends (111) that abut the backup, and front ends (122) accessible from the front of the frame, and at least two springs (112) that each biases the rods forwardly. Claim 18 also describes a pair of standoffs (130, 131) positioned to engage the front ends of the rods as the connectors approached each other. The only reference showing a pair of springs is Kiani, which does not show applicant's rods and standoffs that engage the front ends of the rods.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon D. Rosen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

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